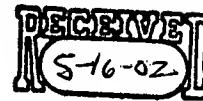


Official



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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph.

1
2
Unfortunately, significant errors still occur in data detection. For example, using EPR4 techniques, a bit error rate (BER) of about 10^{-5} typically occurs. However, it has been observed that if the signal to noise ratio in a system could be increased by, for example, 1 dB, the bit error rate can be improved to 10^{-6} , representing an order of magnitude improvement. Thus, even small improvements in the signal-to-noise ratio results in large improvements in the bit error rate using EPR4 detection techniques. This is significant since presently the requirements exist for the provision of circuits that have a bit error rate less than 10^{-7} , and it is expected that this requirement will continue to become more stringent.